

[*Translation*]

**Financial Assistance to Students
Studying In Russia**

947. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide financial assistance to the Indian students during their post graduation and Ph.d. in Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such students who have been selected for this purpose and the criteria adopted in this regard;

(d) whether the students gone there for study on free scholarship from various cultural or friendship societies have also been included in this scheme; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e). The Ministry of Human Resource Development have, on the advice of the Indian Embassy in Moscow, sanctioned an emergency assistance of Rs. 500/- per month per student in hard currency to 19 students officially sponsored by Department of Education and still pursuing their studies in the erstwhile USSR for the period from December 1991 to March 1992.

As regards other students who had gone to the USSR on their own, the Ministry of Human Resource Development is not in a position to grant direct financial assistance. However, on the advice of the Ministry of External Affairs, the Reserve Bank of India have issued instructions to Banks and Foreign Exchange dealers to allow parents and

guardians of all students already studying in the former USSR to remit upto US Dollars 50 per month. Reserve Bank of India has also authorised the purchase of return tickets from Moscow in Indian rupees.

The Ministry of External Affairs have also issued an advisory notice in the Press to the effect that no Indian students should seek admission to institutions in the former Soviet Union on a self-financing and non-governmental sponsoring basis, until such time as the situation crystallises in those countries, and that those who did so would be doing so at their own risk as Government liability does not arise for them.

[*English*]

Study on Iodisation in Salt

948. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been undertaken to monitor the levels of iodisation in salt to eliminate the risk of iodine toxicity; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). Under the National Goitre Control Programme, levels of iodisation in salt are monitored at two levels viz manufacturing and distribution channel including retail level. Necessary standards for iodisation salt have been laid down under the prevention of Food Adulteration Act/ Rules. These Rules envisage minimum levels of 30 PPM and 15 PPM at the manufacturing and retail level respectively. Both these levels are absolutely safe. However, no reports of iodine toxicity have been received till date since the inception of the salt iodisation Programme in 1962.